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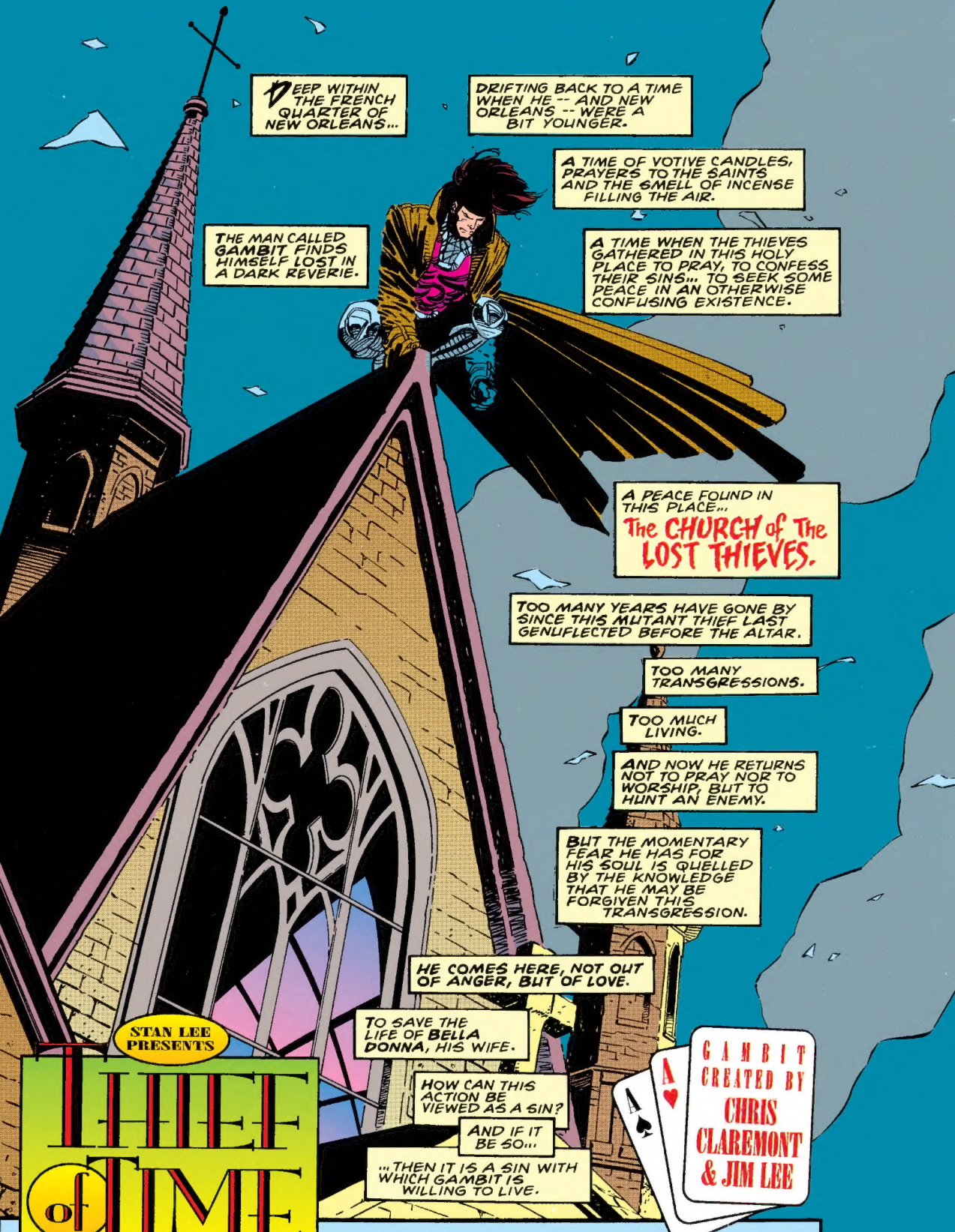
GAMBIT
LEE WEEKS


DEEP WITHIN THE FRENCH QUARTER OF NEW ORLEANS...
DRIFTING BACK TO A TIME WHEN HE -- AND NEW ORLEANS -- WERE A BIT YOUNGER.
A TIME OF VOTIVE CANDLES, PRAYERS TO THE SAINTS AND THE SMELL OF INCENSE FILLING THE AIR.
THE MAN CALLED GAMBIT FINDS HIMSELF LOST IN A DARK REVERIE.
A TIME WHEN THE THIEVES GATHERED IN THIS HOLY PLACE TO PRAY, TO CONFESS THEIR SINS... TO SEEK SOME PEACE IN AN OTHERWISE CONFUSING EXISTENCE.
A PEACE FOUND IN THIS PLACE...
The CHURCH of The LOST THIEVES.
TOO MANY YEARS HAVE GONE BY SINCE THIS MUTANT THIEF LAST GENUFLECTED BEFORE THE ALTAR.
TOO MANY TRANSGRESSIONS.
TOO MUCH LIVING.
AND NOW HE RETURNS NOT TO PRAY NOR TO WORSHIP, BUT TO HUNT AN ENEMY.
BUT THE MOMENTARY FEAR HE HAS FOR HIS SOUL IS QUELLED BY THE KNOWLEDGE THAT HE MAY BE FORGIVEN THIS TRANSGRESSION.
HE COMES HERE, NOT OUT OF ANGER, BUT OF LOVE.
TO SAVE THE LIFE OF BELLA DONNA, HIS WIFE.
HOW CAN THIS ACTION BE VIEWED AS A SIN?
AND IF IT BE SO...
...THEN IT IS A SIN WITH WHICH GAMBIT IS WILLING TO LIVE.
STAN LEE PRESENTS
THIEF of TIME
GAMBIT CREATED BY CHRIS CLAREMONT & JIM LEE

AN ADVENTURE OF THE CAJUN X-MAN

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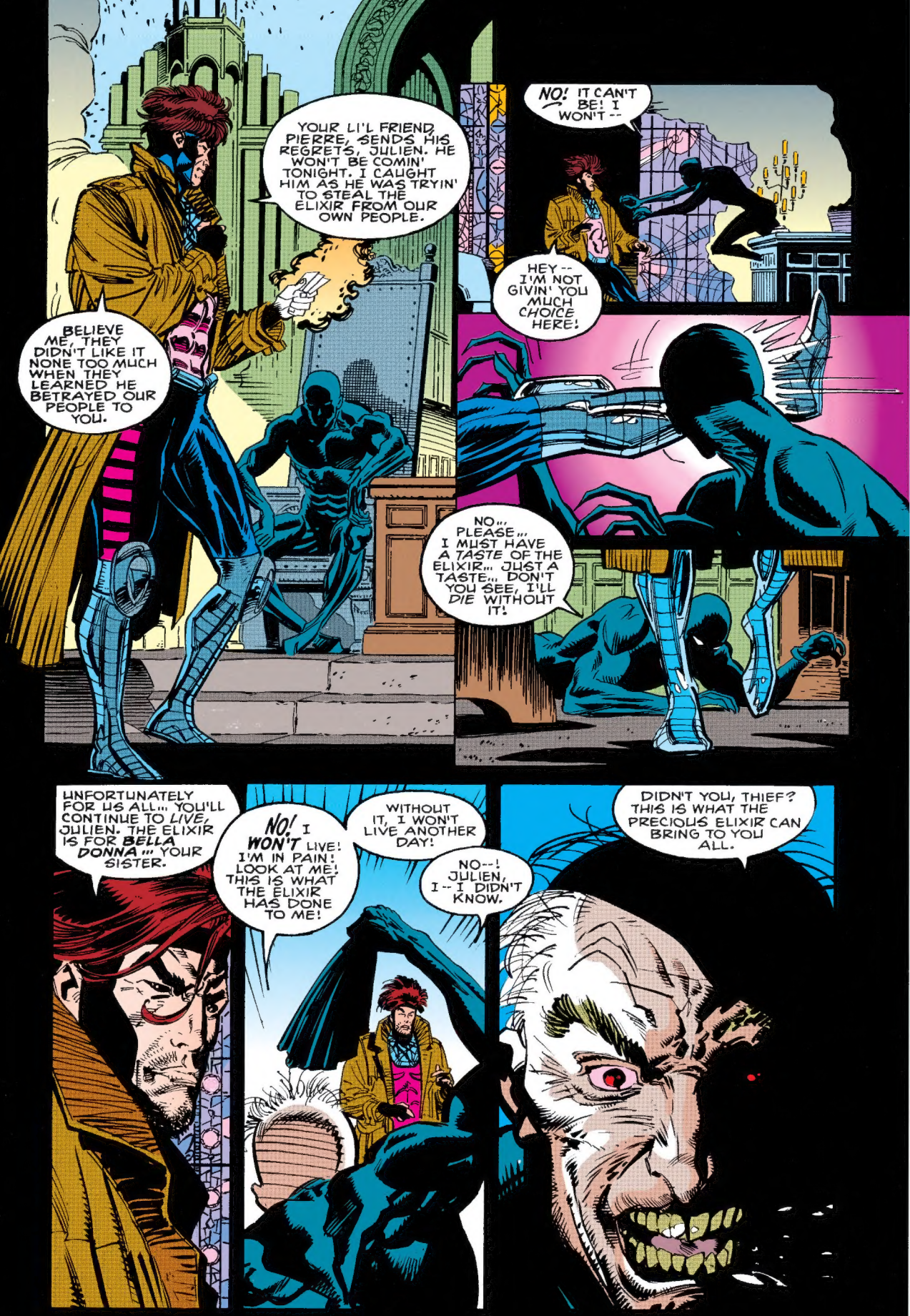
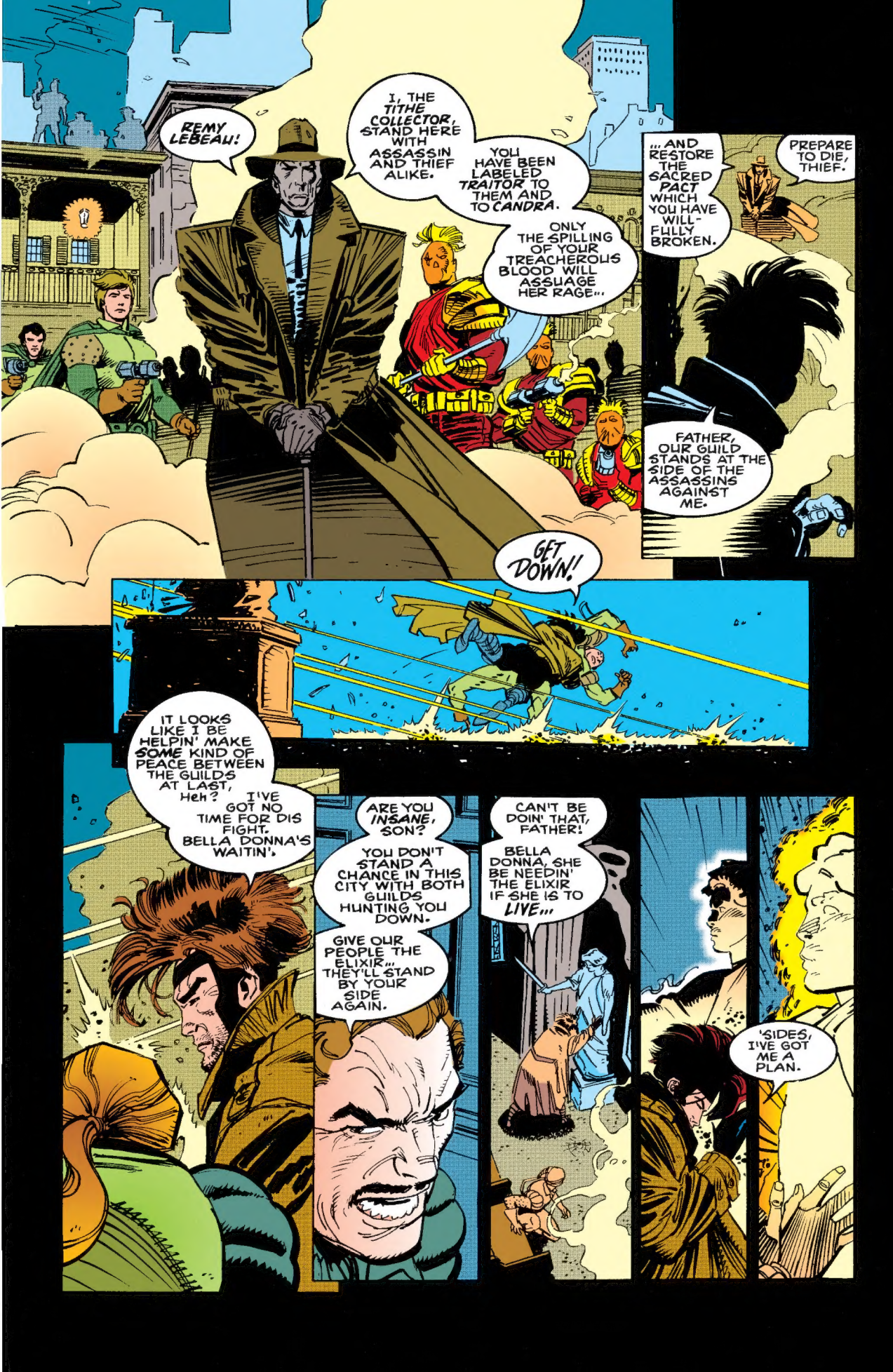
INSIDE, THE ENEMY AWAITS... WRAPPED IN THE SHADOWS AND THE SANCTITY OF THE CHURCH...
...A MEMBER OF THE ASSASSINS' GUILD, THOSE ANCIENT ENEMIES TO THE THIEVES. A DARK SOUL WITH NO RESPECT FOR THE PLACE THE THIEVES COME TO WORSHIP.
HIS NAME IS JULIEN, AND HE FINDS IT FITTING THAT HE HAS COME HERE TO PROFANE THIS MOST HOLY PLACE --
WHERE ARE YOU, PIERRE?
ONE VIAL CONTAINING THE ELIXIR OF LIFE BE NOT ENOUGH.
YOU WERE TO STEAL THE OTHER VIAL, YOU. THE ONE YOU THIEVES GOT FROM THE TITHE COLLECTOR.
THE DEAL WAS FOR YOU TO BE BRINGIN' THAT ONE TO ME HERE.
AND THEN I WILL BE HUNTIN' DOWN MY SISTER'S STINKIN' THIEF OF A HUSBAND -- KILL HIM, AND TEAR THE FINAL VIAL FROM HIS DEAD HANDS.
THEN I WILL HAVE THE LONG LIFE -- AT LAST.
BAKOOM
WH--? GAMBIT!
RIGHT HERE BESIDE YOU, JULIEN.
AND I'LL BE TAKIN' WHAT'S MINE.
THIS IS THE LAST VIAL I BE NEEDIN'.

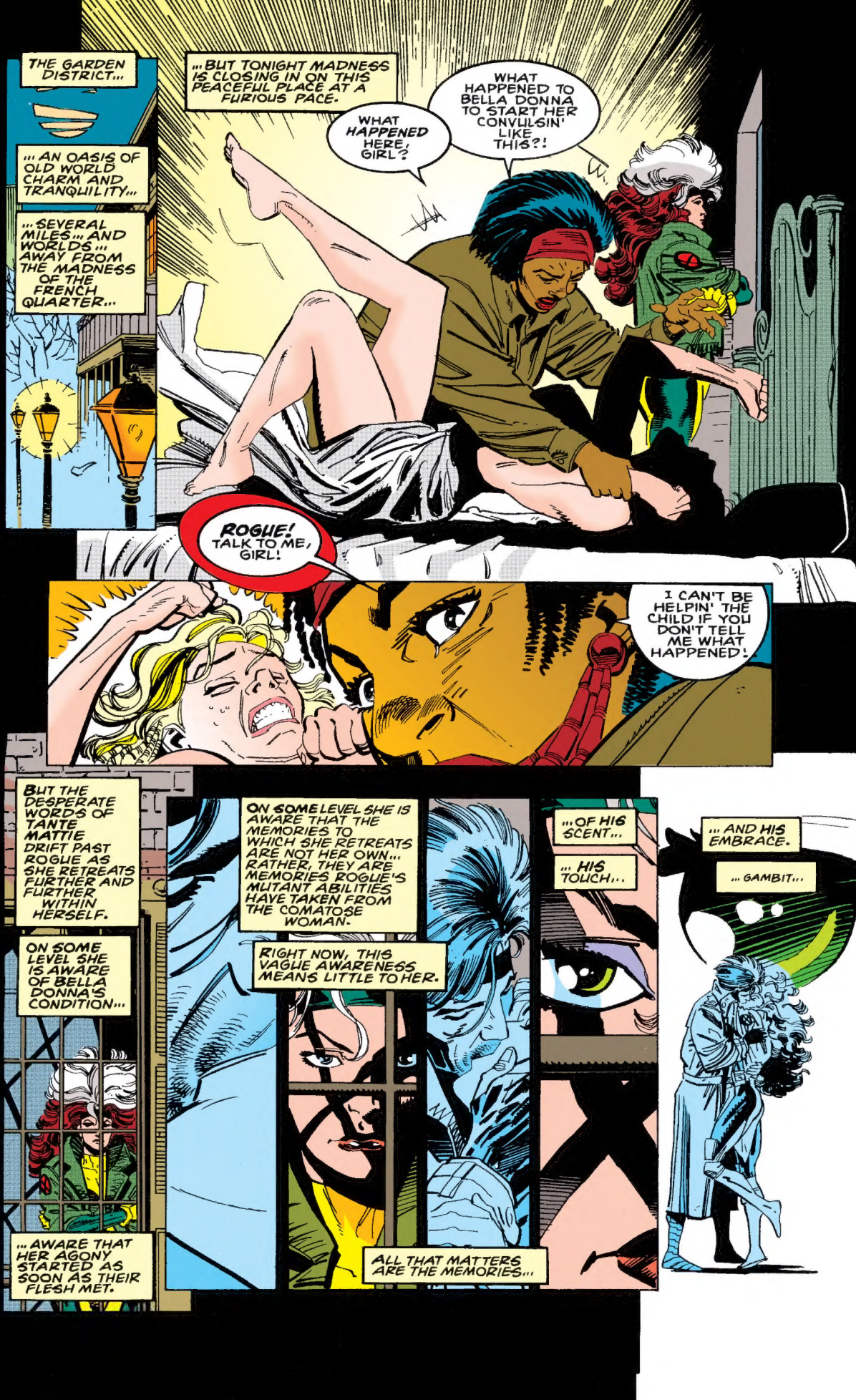

YOUR LI'L FRIEND PIERRE, SENDS HIS REGRETS, JULIEN. HE WON'T BE COMIN' TONIGHT. I CAUGHT HIM AS HE WAS TRYIN' TO STEAL THE ELIXIR FROM OUR OWN PEOPLE.
BELIEVE ME, THEY DIDN'T LIKE IT NONE TOO MUCH WHEN THEY LEARNED HE BETRAYED OUR PEOPLE TO YOU.
NO! IT CAN'T BE! I WON'T --
HEY -- I'M NOT GIVIN' YOU MUCH CHOICE HERE!
NO... PLEASE... I MUST HAVE A TASTE OF THE ELIXIR... JUST A TASTE... DON'T YOU SEE, I'LL DIE WITHOUT IT!
UNFORTUNATELY FOR US ALL... YOU'LL CONTINUE TO LIVE, JULIEN. THE ELIXIR IS FOR BELLA DONNA... YOUR SISTER.
NO! I WON'T LIVE! I'M IN PAIN! LOOK AT ME! THIS IS WHAT THE ELIXIR HAS DONE TO ME!
WITHOUT IT, I WON'T LIVE ANOTHER DAY!
NO--! JULIEN, I -- I DIDN'T KNOW.
DIDN'T YOU, THIEF? THIS IS WHAT THE PRECIOUS ELIXIR CAN BRING TO YOU ALL.

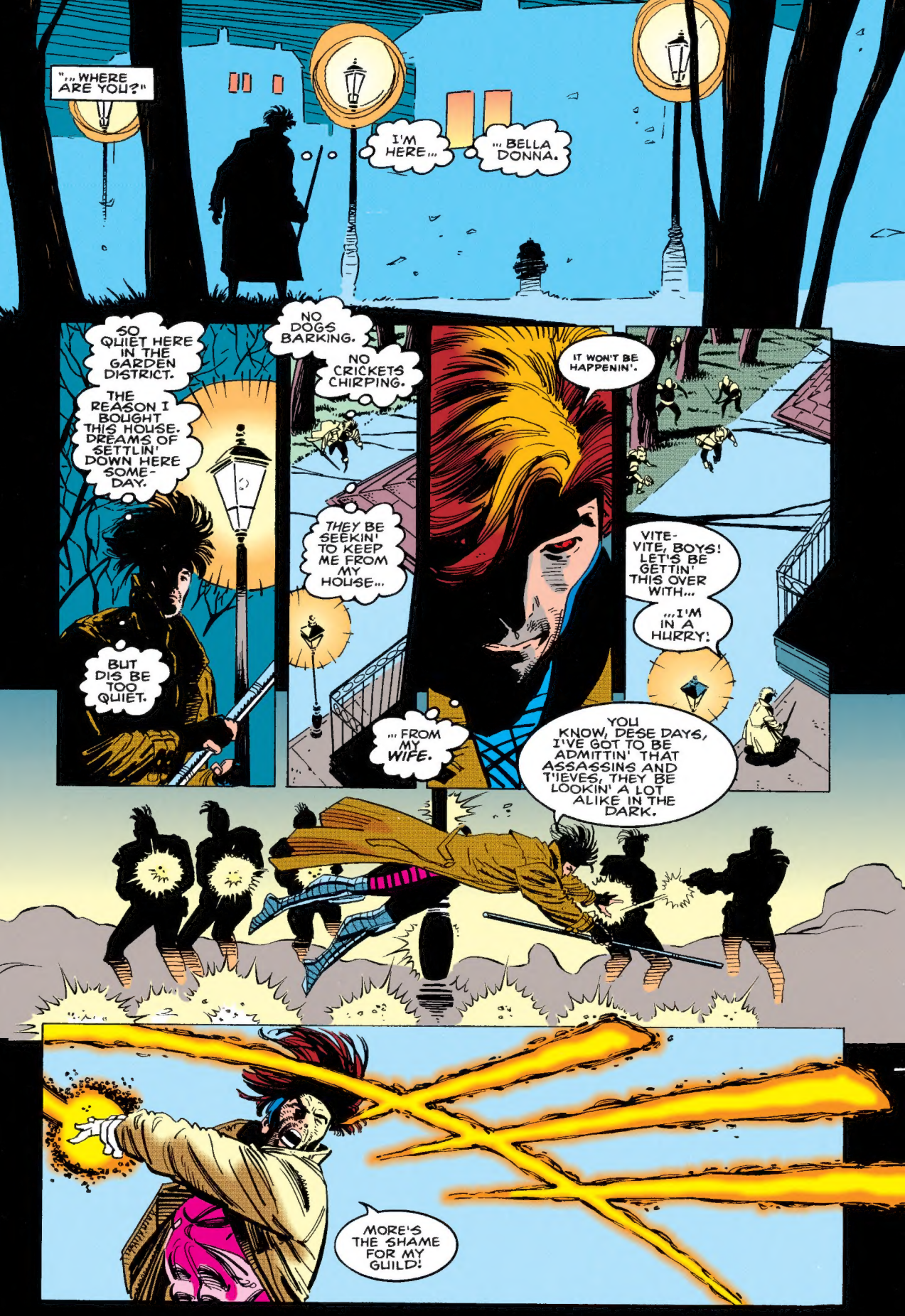
JEAN-LUC LEBEAU, HEAD OF THE COUNCIL OF THIEVES STANDS GUARD AT THE FRONT OF THE CHURCH HE HAS VISITED SO MANY TIMES IN HIS LONG LIFE.
BUT THEN, JEAN-LUC REASONS, THERE HAVE BEEN MANY WONDROUS THINGS IN HIS LIFE SINCE HE FOUND THE LOST BOY WANDERING THE STREETS SO LONG AGO, THE BOY NOW CALLED --
GAMBIT.
FINGERS MOVE TO THE STILL-TENDER WOUND RECEIVED IN PARIS DURING A CONFRONTATION WITH CANDRA... BENEFACTRESS TO BOTH THIEVES AND ASSASSINS... AND PROVIDER OF THE NEAR LEGENDARY ELIXIR OF LIFE.
HIS LIFE WAS SAVED BY HIS ADOPTED SON, REMY -- WHO DARED CONFRONT CANDRA AND ESCAPE PARIS WITH ONE OF THE PRECIOUS VIALS OF ELIXIR.
FATHER, I AM GLAD YOU CAME. WE NEED TO TALK.
TALK? IS NOW THE TIME OR THE PLACE, REMY? WE SHOULD BE OFF BEFORE--
JEAN-LUC MARVELS AT ALL THIS -- FOR EVEN A MASTER OF THIEVES SUCH AS HE NEVER DREAMED OF MEETING SHE WHO FOUNDED THE GUILDS THAT GUIDE HIS LIFE.
THERE CAN BE NO OTHER TIME.
NO-- JULIEN?
THE ELIXIR..! OH LORD.. THE ELIXIR...
THEN IT IS TRUE? THIS... JULIEN'S CONDITION... COULD HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY THE ELIXIR OF LIFE?
YES. I HAVE SEEN IT HAPPEN BEFORE.
YOU KNEW ABOUT THIS DANGER?
WE HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN AND ACCEPTED THE RISK, MY SON.
NOTHING COMES WITHOUT ITS PRICE. AND FOR A LIFE LONGER THAN MOST HUMANS COULD EVER DREAM OF..!
VERY FEW EXPERIENCE THE SIDE EFFECT. THEY SUFFER. THEY CRAVE MORE OF THE ELIXIR TO TAKE AWAY THE PAIN... TO HEAL THEM. IT DOES NO GOOD. AND--

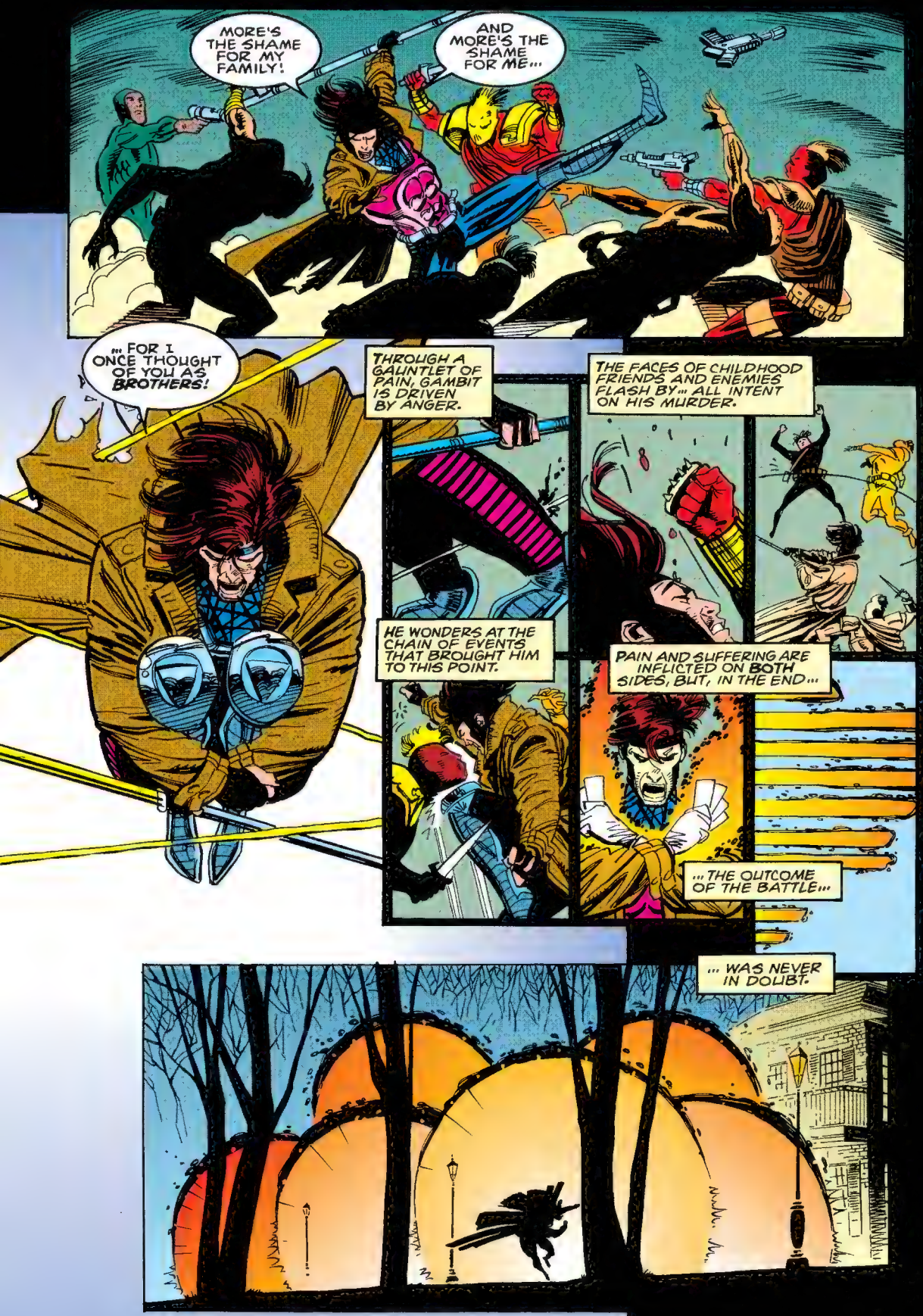
AND SUCH "GENEROSITY" WOULD TAKE THE PRECIOUS FLUID AWAY FROM THOSE OF YOU WHO NEED IT FOR LONG LIFE? SO YOU LET THEM DIE.
YES IT IS OUR GREATEST SIN.
HOW CAN THE LOSS OF EVEN A FEW OF OUR GUILD... OUR FAMILY... BE WORTH THE RISK?
EACH MAKES THEIR OWN DECISION. ALL RISKS ARE KNOWN BEFORE IT EVER PASSES THEIR LIPS. FEW TURN IT DOWN.
AND NOW I MUST DECIDE THIS FATE FOR BELLA DONNA?!
I MUST GAMBLE WITH THE LIFE OF THE WOMAN I LOVED -- MY OWN WIFE?!
PLEASE... REMY... JUST A TASTE... IT WOULD MAKE SUCH A DIFFERENCE... I WOULD LEAVE YOU THEN... I --
FRAKOOOM


REMY LEBEAU!
I, THE TITHE COLLECTOR, STAND HERE WITH ASSASSIN AND THIEF ALIKE.
YOU HAVE BEEN LABELED TRAITOR TO THEM AND TO CANDRA.
ONLY THE SPILLING OF YOUR TREACHEROUS BLOOD WILL ASSUAGE HER RAGE...
...AND RESTORE THE SACRED PACT WHICH YOU HAVE WILL-FULLY BROKEN.
PREPARE TO DIE, THIEF.
FATHER, OUR GUILD STANDS AT THE SIDE OF THE ASSASSINS AGAINST ME.
GET DOWN!!
IT LOOKS LIKE I BE HELPIN' MAKE SOME KIND OF PEACE BETWEEN THE GUILDS AT LAST, Heh? I'VE GOT NO TIME FOR DIS FIGHT. BELLA DONNA'S WAITIN'.
ARE YOU INSANE, SON? YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE IN THIS CITY WITH BOTH GUILDS HUNTING YOU DOWN.
GIVE OUR PEOPLE THE ELIXIR... THEY'LL STAND BY YOUR SIDE AGAIN.
CAN'T BE DOIN' THAT, FATHER! BELLA DONNA, SHE BE NEEDIN' THE ELIXIR IF SHE IS TO LIVE...
'SIDES, I'VE GOT ME A PLAN.

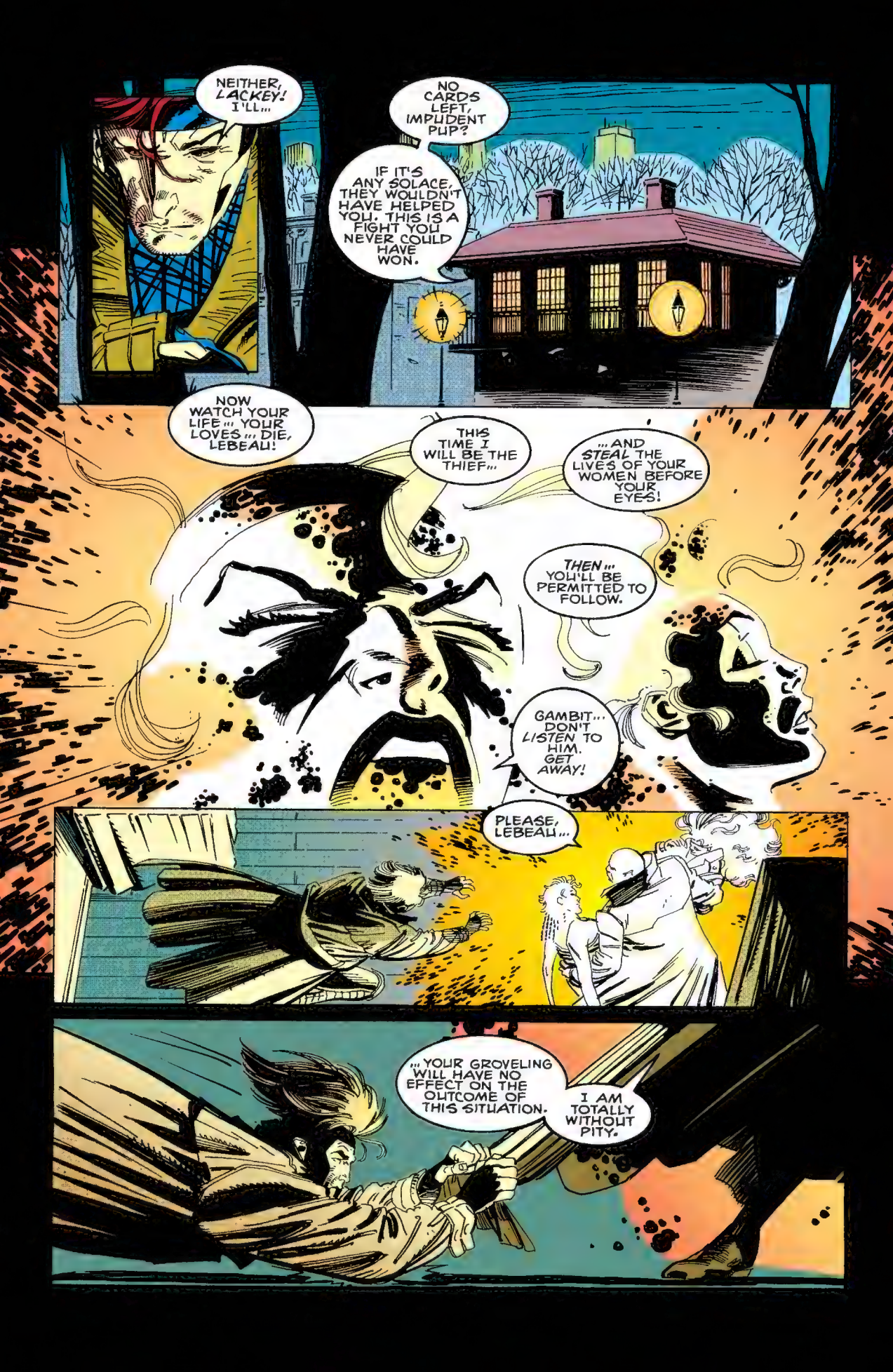
"HOPIN' I CAN PULL IT OFF WITHOUT KILLIN' ME...
"...OR TOO MANY OTHERS!"
WITH THE SHATTERING OF STAINED GLASS, THE MARBLE STATUE OF A LONG-FORGOTTEN SAINT PLUNGES INTO THE COURTYARD.
UNDER DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WOULD BE VIEWED AS A MIRACLE BY SOME...
...BUT THE THIEVES AND ASSASSINS RECOGNIZE THE GLOW SURROUNDING THE STATUE AS SOMETHING OTHER THAN DIVINE INTERVENTION.
GAMBIT'S MUTANT POWERS HAVE BEEN WITNESSED BY SOME OF THOSE WHO NOW RUN FOR COVER.
RARELY HAS HE USED THESE POWERS TO TRANSMUTE POTENTIAL ENERGY INTO KINETIC ENERGY ON SUCH A LARGE OBJECT.
THE SITUATION IS DESPERATE.
THE EXPLOSION DEAFENING.
MY SON IS GONE.
NO. THE COMMON STREET RAT WILL NOT ESCAPE ME AGAIN.
MAYBE NOT...
...BUT HE'LL BE GIVING IT A REAL GOOD TRY, TITHE COLLECTOR.
GAMBIT MUST NOT SURVIVE THE NIGHT!
KILL HIM FOR THE BENEFACTRESS... KILL HIM FOR THE PACT.


THE GARDEN DISTRICT...
...AN OASIS OF OLD WORLD CHARM AND TRANQUILITY...
...SEVERAL MILES... AND WORLDS... AWAY FROM THE MADNESS OF THE FRENCH QUARTER...
...BUT TONIGHT MADNESS IS CLOSING IN ON THIS PEACEFUL PLACE AT A FURIOUS PACE.
WHAT HAPPENED HERE, GIRL?
WHAT HAPPENED TO BELLA DONNA TO START HER CONVULSIN' LIKE THIS?!
ROGUE! TALK TO ME, GIRL!
I CAN'T BE HELPIN' THE CHILD IF YOU DON'T TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED!
BUT THE DESPERATE WORDS OF TANTE MATTIE DRIFT PAST ROGUE AS SHE RETREATS FURTHER AND FURTHER WITHIN HERSELF.
ON SOME LEVEL SHE IS AWARE OF BELLA DONNA'S CONDITION...
...AWARE THAT HER AGONY STARTED AS SOON AS THEIR FLESH MET.
ON SOME LEVEL SHE IS AWARE THAT THE MEMORIES TO WHICH SHE RETREATS ARE NOT HER OWN... RATHER, THEY ARE MEMORIES ROGUE'S MUTANT ABILITIES HAVE TAKEN FROM THE COMATOSE WOMAN.
RIGHT NOW, THIS VAGUE AWARENESS MEANS LITTLE TO HER.
ALL THAT MATTERS ARE THE MEMORIES...
...OF HIS SCENT...
... HIS TOUCH...
... AND HIS EMBRACE.
... GAMBIT...


"... WHERE ARE YOU?"
I'M HERE...
... BELLA DONNA.
SO QUIET HERE IN THE GARDEN DISTRICT.
THE REASON I BOUGHT THIS HOUSE. DREAMS OF SETTLIN' DOWN HERE SOME-DAY.
BUT DIS BE TOO QUIET.
NO DOGS BARKING.
NO CRICKETS CHIRPING.
THEY BE SEEKIN' TO KEEP ME FROM MY HOUSE...
... FROM MY WIFE.
IT WON'T BE HAPPENIN'.
VITE-VITE, BOYS! LET'S BE GETTIN' THIS OVER WITH...
...I'M IN A HURRY!
YOU KNOW, DESE DAYS, I'VE GOT TO BE ADMITTIN' THAT ASSASSINS AND T'IEVES, THEY BE LOOKIN' A LOT ALIKE IN THE DARK.
MORE'S THE SHAME FOR MY GUILD!


MORE'S THE SHAME FOR MY FAMILY!
AND MORE'S THE SHAME FOR ME...
... FOR I ONCE THOUGHT OF YOU AS BROTHERS!
THROUGH A GAUNTLET OF PAIN, GAMBIT IS DRIVEN BY ANGER.
THE FACES OF CHILDHOOD FRIENDS AND ENEMIES FLASH BY... ALL INTENT ON HIS MURDER.
HE WONDERS AT THE CHAIN OF EVENTS THAT BROUGHT HIM TO THIS POINT.
PAIN AND SUFFERING ARE INFLICTED ON BOTH SIDES, BUT, IN THE END...
... THE OUTCOME OF THE BATTLE...
... WAS NEVER IN DOUBT.

THIS HOUSE... MY HOUSE... I'LL NEVER LOOK AT IT WITHOUT THINKING OF THE BLOOD THAT HAS BEEN SPILLED HERE TONIGHT.
CURSE YOU, CANDRA! CURSE YOU F'R ALL OF DIS!
AND NOW I GOTTA DECIDE WHETHER TO BE GIVIN' BELLE THIS ELIXIR... RISK HER BEING TURNED INTO THE HORROR THAT JULIEN IS...
... MAYBE SHE BETTER OFF DEAD?
BUT NO! IF THERE IS A CHANCE I GOTTA TAKE IT...
A CHANCE TO START OVER MAYBE?
BUT WHAT ABOUT-- ROGUE, REMY...
HOW CAN YOU..?
TANTE MATTIE..!
WELCOME HOME, THIEF!
YOU DIDN'T REALLY EXPECT TO ESCAPE ME, DID YOU?
CANDRA'S ORDERS WERE THAT YOU WERE TO SUFFER INTENSELY, SO...
...WHICH WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE DIE FIRST... YOUR FORMER WIFE, OR YOUR MUTANT GIRLFRIEND?


NEITHER, LACKEY! I'LL...
NO CARDS LEFT, IMPUDENT PUP?
IF IT'S ANY SOLACE, THEY WOULDN'T HAVE HELPED YOU. THIS IS A FIGHT YOU NEVER COULD HAVE WON.
NOW WATCH YOUR LIFE... YOUR LOVES... DIE, LEBEAU!
THIS TIME I WILL BE THE THIEF...
...AND STEAL THE LIVES OF YOUR WOMEN BEFORE YOUR EYES!
THEN... YOU'LL BE PERMITTED TO FOLLOW.
GAMBIT... DON'T LISTEN TO HIM. GET AWAY!
PLEASE, LEBEAU...
...YOUR GROVELING WILL HAVE NO EFFECT ON THE OUTCOME OF THIS SITUATION.
I AM TOTALLY WITHOUT PITY.

SO TRY TO HOLD ON TO THE LAST SHRED OF YOUR DIGNITY.
I GOT HOLD O' MY DIGNITY...
...'MONG OTHER T'INGS!
WHAT..? MY COAT? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
'PEARS MY SITUATION IS IMPROVIN', Heh?
THE PACT! THE ELIXIR! YOU CANNOT DO THIS!
I CAN...
...AND I DID!
THE PACT IS BROKEN...
...CANDRA NEVER WOULD HAVE HONORED IT AGAIN...
...THE ELIXIR IS MINE.
FWOOM

REMY...
...WE GOTTA TALK, SUGAH.
YOU GOTTA KNOW WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN ME AN' BELLE WHILE Y'ALL WERE GONE.
NOT NOW, PETITE.
I'VE GOT TO BE CONCEN-TRATIN'.
WHEN I TOUCHED HER... I CAN'T GET THE IMAGES OUT O' MY HEAD...
...IMAGES OF YOU AND BELLE...
...ONLY IN MY HEAD I SEE YOU AN' ME. FEEL YOU AN' ME. I...
...I LOVE YOU, REMY.
ROGUE, WHATEVER IT IS YOU'RE TRYIN' TO SAY, IT GOTTA WAIT.
ELIXIRS HAS GOT TO BE MIXED JUST RIGHT...
...I'VE NEVER DONE IT BEFORE...
...SO I'M ONLY GUESSIN'...
...I'M GAMBLING WITH BELLE'S LIFE HERE! PLEASE --
THE ELIXIR IS MINE, T'IEF!
NO, JULIEN! YOUR SISTER IS GOIN' TO LIVE. STAY AWAY...
...AND MAYBE I CAN HELP YOU TOO.
TASH!

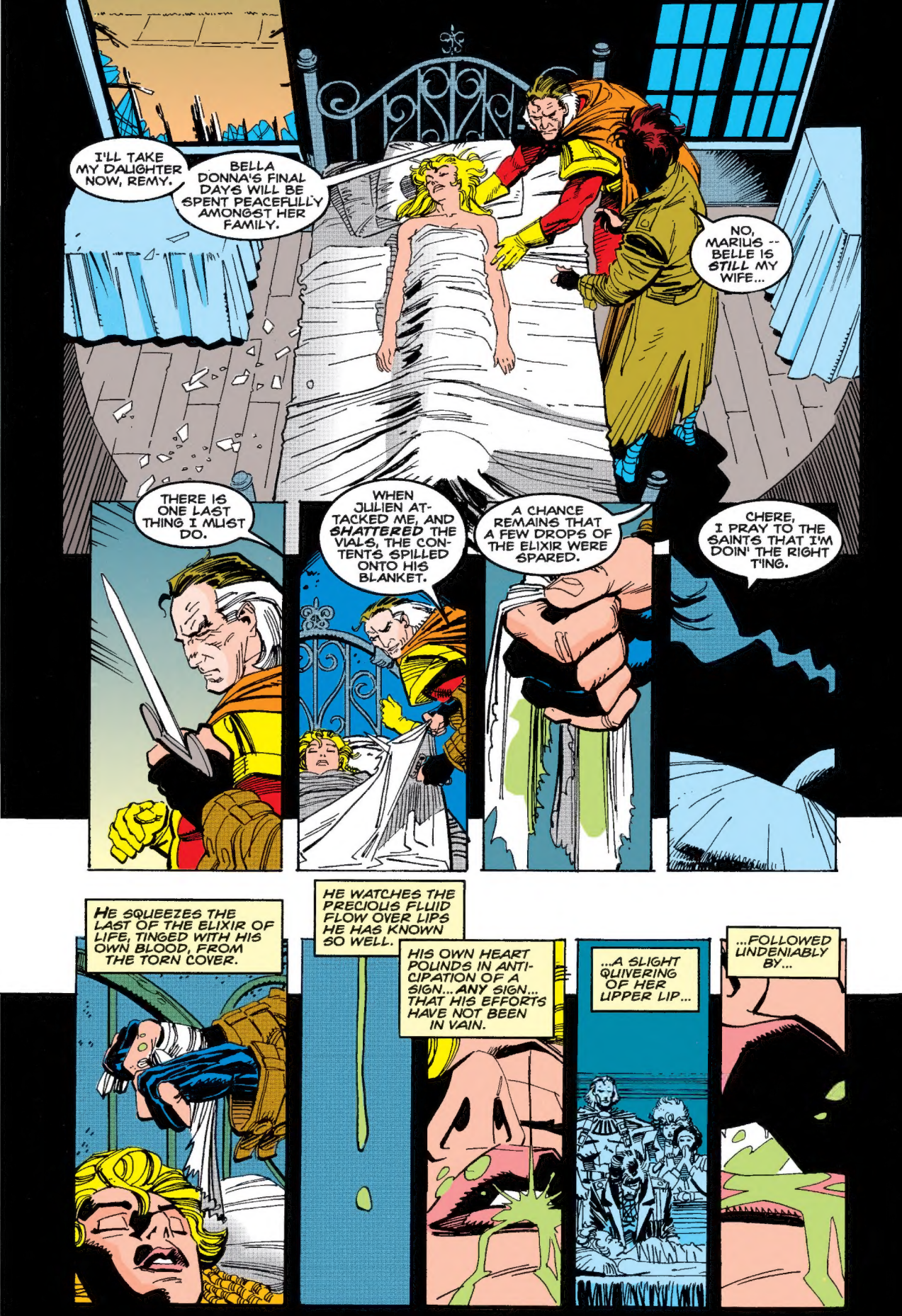
AREN'T YOU THE GENEROUS ONE, LEBEAU? BUT I'VE GOT THE ONLY BLADE THIS TIME, AND...
...I'VE GOT YOU!
SPLASH
NO!
THE ELIXIR!
THAT WAS ALL OF IT, YOU IDIOT!
BELLE'S LAST CHANCE...
...AND YOU DESTROYED IT THE SAME WAY YOU DESTROY EVERYT'ING YOU TOUCH.
NOW'S TIME FOR ME TO BE DOIN' YOU A FAVOR, JULIEN.
SOMETHIN' I THOUGHT WAS FINISHED LONG 'GO.
ONLY THIS TIME I BE MAKING SURE YOU STAY DEAD!

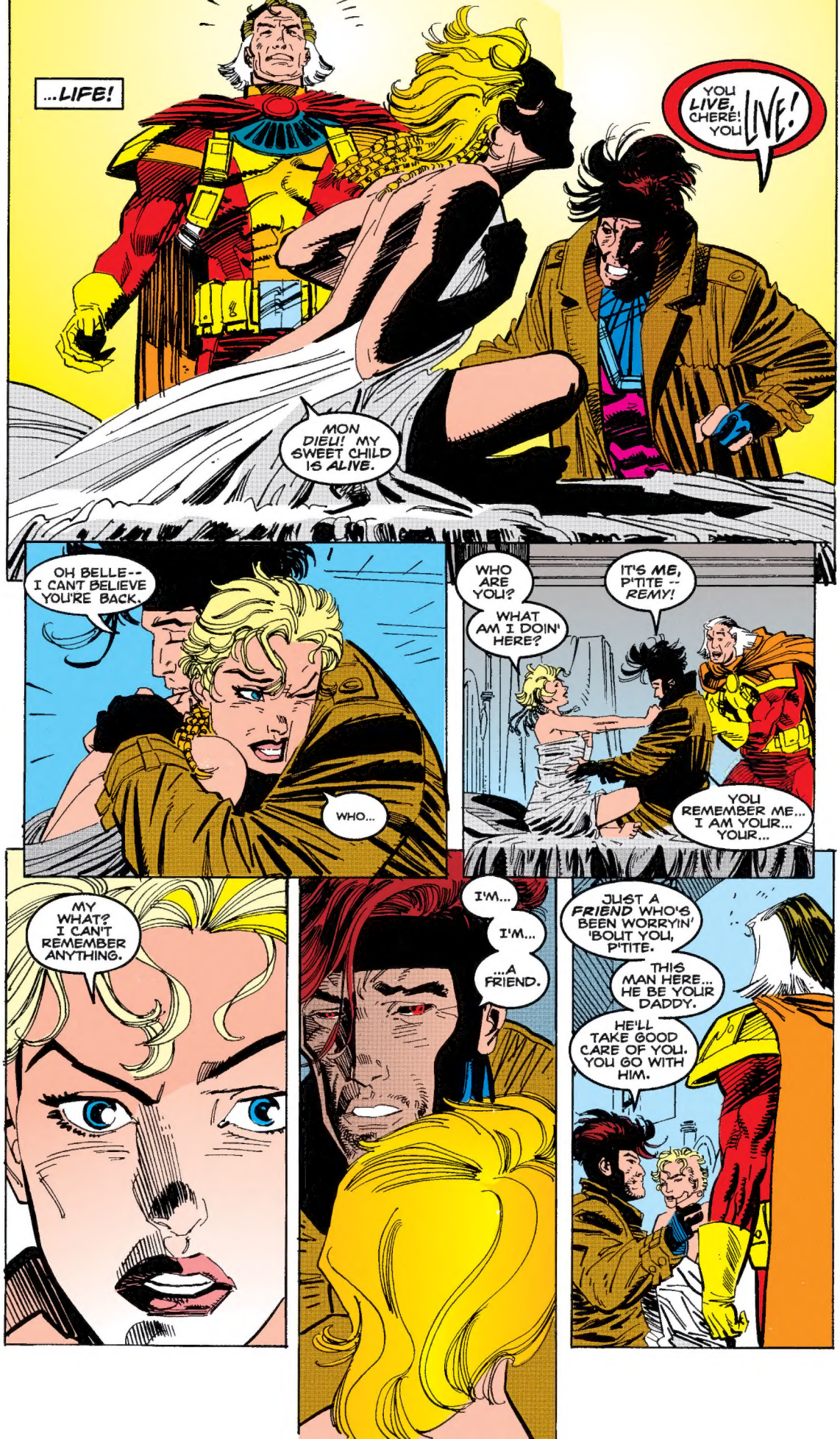
THE KINDEST THING I COULD DO FOR YOU, YOU PATHETIC EVIL MAN
NO. SPILLIN' YOUR BLOOD AIN'T GOIN' TO BE HELPIN' ANYTHIN'...
...'SPECIALLY NOT BELLE.
LET YOUR OWN DARK WAYS CONSUME YOU.
REMY! WATCH OUT!
I'LL BE TAKIN' YOU WITH ME, YOU T'IEF! I'LL --
THOK
THOK
THOK
THOK
THOK
IT IS FINALLY OVER, JULIEN...
...MY SON.

YOU TRIED YOUR BEST FOR MY DAUGHTER, REMY LEBEAU.
FOR THAT I THANK YOU.
NO, MARIUS, I FAILED YOU...
...AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, FAILED BELLA DONNA.
IT IS OVER, CHERE.
FORGIVE ME.
THIEVES... ASSASSINS... COME FINISH WHAT YOU CAME TO DO!
THE GAME'S PLAYED OUT. THE PACT IS BROKEN. THE POWER AND LIFE ARE GONE FOREVER.
KILL ME NOW... IF YOU WILL.
SUCH BRAVERY FROM THE TRAITOR! BRAVO, GAMBIT!
DO YOU REALLY EXPECT THEM TO GIVE UP ALL THAT I HAVE TO OFFER FOR YOUR THEATRICAL LITTLE ACT?
AN ACT FROM ONE WHO HAS ALWAYS BEEN A LIAR, A THIEF, AND A TRAITOR...
...AND ALWAYS WILL BE.

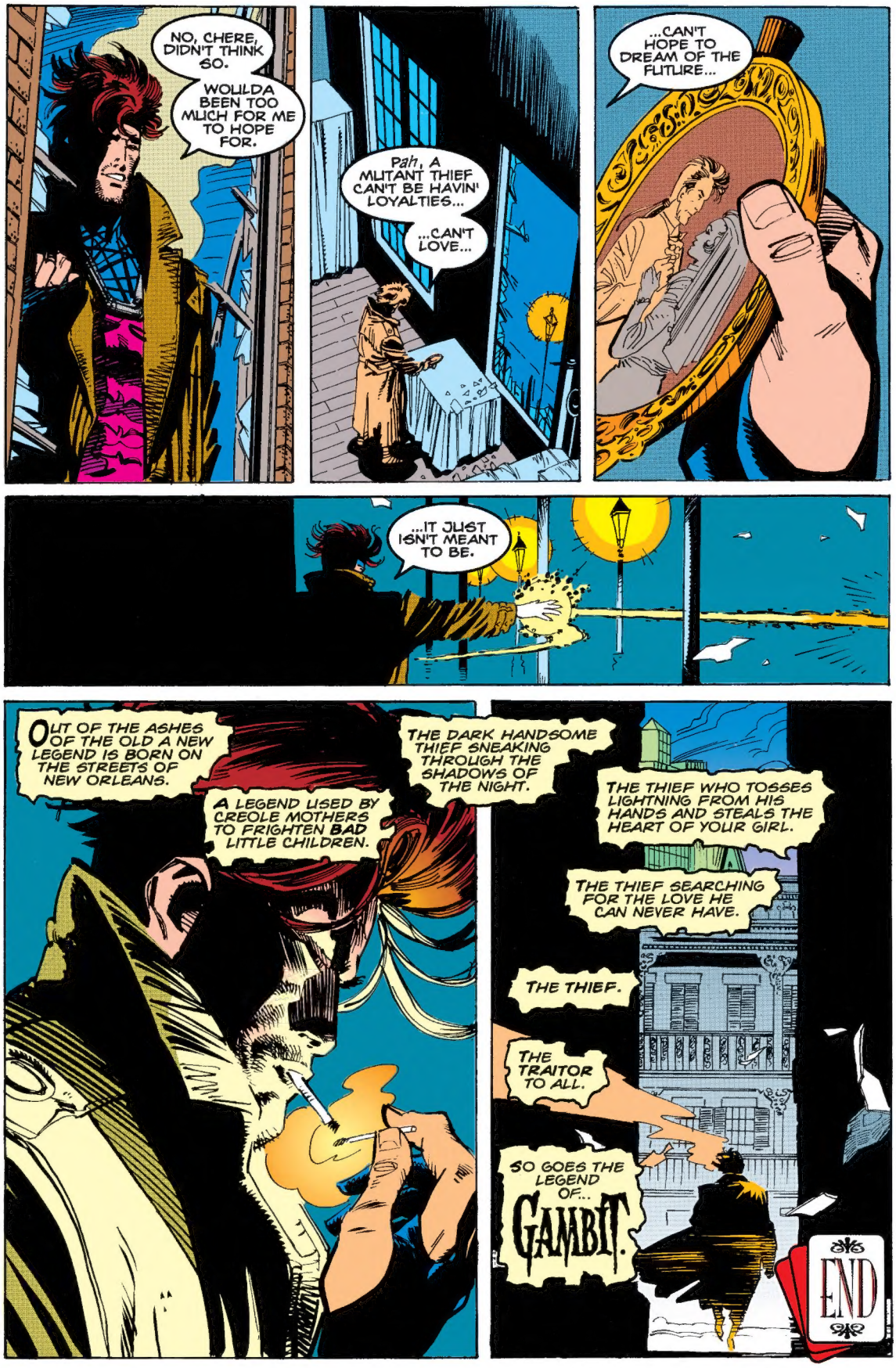
SO, CANDRA, THE GREAT BENEFACTRESS...
...IS GRACIN' US WITH HER PRESENCE, GUILD MEMBERS...
...MAYBE SHE BE OFFERIN' YOU A CHANCE TO RESTORE THE PACT IN EXCHANGE FOR MY LIFE.
A CHANCE TO GO BACK TO LIVIN' A LIFE UNDER HER YOKE.
IF THAT BE THE CASE...
...I'D RATHER BE DYIN' NOW!
I MAY DIE A THIEF, BUT NOT THE ONE MY FATHER AND OTHERS OF MY FAMILY WOULD HAVE HAD ME BE.
I'LL NOT BE STEALIN' ONLY TO TURN OVER ALL MY PLUNDER TO SOMEONE WHO HOLDS MY LIFE ON A STRING.
I PREFER TO LIVE AND DIE BY NO WHIM BUT MY OWN.
THERE, JULIEN! HE IS THE FUTURE THAT AWAITS YOU ALL! TAKE IT IF YOU WILL.
ASSASSINS, KILL HIM...KILL ALL THE THIEVES... AND THE PACT WILL BE RESTORED.
YOU WILL GET BOTH THE POWER AND THE LIFE.
NO, CANDRA -- WE, TOO, ARE FINISHED WITH THE OLD WAYS.
FOR TOO LONG WE HAVE ALLOWED YOU TO PLAY ONE GUILD OFF THE OTHER.
YOUR GIFTS MEAN NOTHING BUT DEATH AND DESPAIR FOR ALL WHO TOUCH THEM.
THE ASSASSINS WILL BE YOUR PAWNS NO LONGER! I HAVE LOST MY CHILDREN TO YOU...
...I WILL NOT LOSE MY GUILD...ALL THE FAMILY I HAVE LEFT.

LOOKS LIKE IT BE ALL OVER, CANDRA.
LOOKS LIKE YOU LOST BIG TIME.
AND YOU, GAMBIT? WHAT HAVE YOU WON?
WE ARE SO SIMILAR, MY HANDSOME ONE. BOTH USERS. BOTH THIEVES.
NO, CHERIE, WE ARE NOT THE SAME. YOU ROB PEOPLE OF THEIR LIVES...
...I LIVE MY OWN.
OH, THE TIMES WE COULD HAVE HAD IN PARIS, BUT...
...IT WAS NOT TO BE!
IT IS OVER, REMY. ALL THE OLD WAYS DIED TONIGHT.
YOU WILL ALWAYS BE SEEN AS THE CAUSE... FOR GOOD OR BAD.
FUTURE GENERATIONS OF OUR FAMILY MAY SEE YOU AS A SAINT, BUT FOR NOW... FOR THE SAKE OF A FRAGILE PEACE...
...LEAVE AND NEVER RETURN TO THIS CITY... TO OUR FAMILY!
I LOVE YOU, MY SON.


I'LL TAKE MY DAUGHTER NOW, REMY.
BELLA DONNA'S FINAL DAYS WILL BE SPENT PEACEFULLY AMONGST HER FAMILY.
NO, MARIUS -- BELLE IS STILL MY WIFE...
THERE IS ONE LAST THING I MUST DO.
WHEN JULIEN ATTACKED ME, AND SHATTERED THE VIALS, THE CONTENTS SPILLED ONTO HIS BLANKET.
A CHANCE REMAINS THAT A FEW DROPS OF THE ELIXIR WERE SPARED.
CHERE, I PRAY TO THE SAINTS THAT I'M DOIN' THE RIGHT T'ING.
HE SQUEEZES THE LAST OF THE ELIXIR OF LIFE, TINGED WITH HIS OWN BLOOD, FROM THE TORN COVER.
HE WATCHES THE PRECIOUS FLUID FLOW OVER LIPS HE HAS KNOWN SO WELL.
HIS OWN HEART POUNDS IN ANTICIPATION OF A SIGN... ANY SIGN... THAT HIS EFFORTS HAVE NOT BEEN IN VAIN.
...A SLIGHT QUIVERING OF HER UPPER LIP...
...FOLLOWED UNDENIABLY BY...


...LIFE!
YOU LIVE, CHERÉ! YOU LIVE!
MON DIEU! MY SWEET CHILD IS ALIVE.
OH BELLE-- I CANT BELIEVE YOU'RE BACK.
WHO...
WHO ARE YOU?
WHAT AM I DOIN' HERE?
IT'S ME, P'TITE -- REMY!
YOU REMEMBER ME... I AM YOUR... YOUR...
MY WHAT? I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING.
I'M...
I'M...
...A FRIEND.
JUST A FRIEND WHO'S BEEN WORRYIN' 'BOUT YOU, P'TITE.
THIS MAN HERE... HE BE YOUR DADDY.
HE'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU. YOU GO WITH HIM.

YOU LIVE HAPPY.
DON'T YOU BE LOOKIN' AT ME SO *SAD* LIKE, ROGUE.
I *HAD TO* LET HER GO.
COULDN'T RISK HEAPIN' TOO MUCH ON HER ALL AT ONCE.
'SIDES, HER LIFE IS STILL HERE IN NEW ORLEANS. AND AFTER WHAT I DONE...
...I CAN'T BE COMIN' BACK.
BUT NO MORE WEEPIN' AND MOANIN'. HEY! WE WON THE DAY, NO!
NOW I'VE GOT TO BE SHOWIN' YOU MY GRATITUDE.
TONIGHT ME AN' YOU ARE GOIN' DO DIS TOWN *RIGHT* FOR THE LAST TIME, NEH?
YOU STILL LOVE HER, DON'T YOU, REMY?
PART O'ME ALWAYS WILL, ROGUE. YOU *KNOW* THAT.
BUT TONIGHT REMY LEBEAU GOIN' OUT WITH A BANG!
LONG PAST TIME THAT YOU AN' ME GOT *SERIOUS*, CHERE.
GAMBIT... REMY...CHERE... I...I...
NO! I CAN'T!
I CAN'T.


NO, CHERE, DIDN'T THINK SO.
WOULDA BEEN TOO MUCH FOR ME TO HOPE FOR.
Pah, A MUTANT THIEF CAN'T BE HAVIN' LOYALTIES...
...CAN'T LOVE...
...CAN'T HOPE TO DREAM OF THE FUTURE...
...IT JUST ISN'T MEANT TO BE.
OUT OF THE ASHES OF THE OLD A NEW LEGEND IS BORN ON THE STREETS OF NEW ORLEANS.
A LEGEND USED BY CREOLE MOTHERS TO FRIGHTEN BAD LITTLE CHILDREN.
THE DARK HANDSOME THIEF SNEAKING THROUGH THE SHADOWS OF THE NIGHT.
THE THIEF WHO TOSSES LIGHTNING FROM HIS HANDS AND STEALS THE HEART OF YOUR GIRL.
THE THIEF SEARCHING FOR THE LOVE HE CAN NEVER HAVE.
THE THIEF.
THE TRAITOR TO ALL.
SO GOES THE LEGEND OF...
GAMBIT.
END